

almost every tint of blue; and in form it may be oval, the posterior end may be truncated as in *Unio elegans*, or it may be so drawn out as to be scarcely distinguishable when small, from *Venus flexuosus*. Were there no connecting links I could make a half dozen good species from the shells in my collection. Some specimens have an epidermis almost as rough as its congener *C. carolinensis*, while in others it is almost totally lacking. In all the species I have cited there are connecting links which show that these variations are merely forms of one and the same thing.

In view of these facts and numberless others which could be given of the extensive variability of species, and measured by such a definition as I have given of the word, how ridiculous is the practice of naming every possible variation and form, now so much in vogue with the new school of conchologists; a practice which, I am sorry to say, is not confined to them alone, nor to the present time. M. Bourguignat, who may be fairly considered a representative of this school, says he knows 162 species of *Helix* of the group *Pomatia*, and that of these he possesses 151. And he classifies them into two grand sections and nineteen series! One feels like using the language of the happy father who, when the nurse presented him with triplets, the results of a single birth, exclaimed in utter astonishment, "Great Scott! did any get away?" Why don't they name and describe every individual shell and be done with it? This would certainly be one way out of the dilemma.

(*To be continued.*)

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#### DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF OCINEBRA.

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*Ocinebra jenkinsii* Baker.

Shell fusiform, thick, ash-colored, shouldered on the whorls; whorls  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , two apical smooth, rounded, white; the second is but little larger than the first; the third is provided with a distinct carina about midway of the whorl; the rest are strongly shouldered and angular. There are on each whorl nine to ten longitudinal ribs, crossed by ten very strong, coarse lines, which cut the surface of the shell into coarse reticulations. The spire is high, pointed, and occupies about half the length of the entire shell. Aperture oblong-ovate, choco-

late-colored, and ending below in a short, open canal. Outer lip thickened, arcuate, and five-dentate within. Inner lip smooth, covering the columella. Canal open, short, and a little deflected to the left. Umbilical region closed by the extending columellar callous.

Alt. 17, diam. 10 mill. Aperture alt. 7 (excluding canal), diam. 4 mill.

This is a distinct little shell and not referable to any species with which I am acquainted. Its nearest ally appears to be *Ocenebra circumtexta* Stearns, from which it is separated by its more pointed elongated spire, and absence of the two brown bands. The ribs in *circumtexta* are not so well developed, and the spiral liræ are not so coarse. There are seventeen spirial liræ upon *circumtexta*, whilst upon *jenksii* there are but ten. The greatest difference, however, is in the embryonic whorls, which in *circumtexta* are distinctly bicarinate, while in *jenksii* they are rounded. It bears some superficial resemblance to *Ocenebra gracillima* Stearns, but is separated from that species by its more angular form. The ribs, too, are more numerous in *gracillima*, and the canal is closed. The embryonic apex in *gracillima* is corrugated whilst that of *jenksii* is smooth. It is separated from *Ocenebra michaeli* Ford, by its much shorter canal, more rotund form, and thickened lip.

I have seen but four specimens of this species, obtained from the Wagner Collection at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, and as they show little or no variation, I am led to believe the characters are quite constant.

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. C. W. Johnson, assistant curator, Wagner Free Institute of Science, for the privilege of studying and describing the species. The types are now deposited in the Wagner Collection. The habitat is unknown.

I take great pleasure in naming this interesting little species in honor of Prof. J. W. P. Jenks, Curator-in-Charge of the Museum at Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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#### HELIX (STENOTREMA) HIRSUTA SAY, ON THE WEST COAST.

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Of this form Mr. W. G. Binney remarks in his "Manual of American Land Shells," page 279, "a postpliocene species now found over the Northern and Interior regions as far as Kansas and Vir-